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Letter dated 15 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 April 2005, addressed to you by Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to our letter dated 3 March 2005 (A/59/731-S/2005/148), I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 24 March 2005, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/59/755-S/2005/205), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating to itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

Contrary to the assertion of the Greek Cypriot representative, it is the Greek Cypriot administration, not Turkey, that needs to reconsider its policy vis-à-vis the Cyprus problem. While Turkey's support for a settlement based on the Annan plan is well-known as attested to in your mission of good offices report (S/2004/437) dated 28 May 2004, the zero-sum mentality of the Greek Cypriot administration continues to be the stumbling block to the settlement. The Greek Cypriot administration should also be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side not Turkey within the context of the efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Cyprus problem. Therefore, instead of levelling untenable accusations against Turkey, the Greek Cypriot administration, without further delay, should heed your call and pronounce itself with finality and clarity on questions you have put to it.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus